

MINUTES OF CHARLTON ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 4 MAY 23

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF CHARLTON PARISH COUNCIL Held on Thursday 4 May 2023 at 7pm in the Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Tom Blanden (Chairman), Marion Adkins, Philip Baffour, Hannah Piet, Lord Suffolk, Philip Thompson, Jenny Walker; M Bromley Gardner (Clerk); Wilts Cllr Elizabeth Threlfall; one member of the public.

1. Election of Chair. Cllr Tom Blanden was nominated and seconded, and indicated his willingness to stand; there were no other nominations and he was elected unanimously.
2. Apologies. Cllrs Liz Garforth-Bles, Christian Olejnik.
3. Public Questions/Receipt of Petitions. One member of the public asked 3 questions:
 - Asked for an update on the Purlieu House planning application.
 - PC knew no more than was publicly available.
 - Blocked footpath CHAR16/HANK11, immediately south of the Upper Stonehill sub-station.
 - Clerk would investigate.
 - VWH Hunt coming on land despite signs saying keep off.
 - Cllr Threlfall offered to speak to Hunt.
4. Declarations of Interest. None.
5. Urgent Items at Chair's Discretion. None.
6. Election of Deputy Chair. Marion Adkins was nominated and indicated her willingness to stand again; there were no other nominations; she was elected unanimously.
7. Minutes of Last Meeting. The Minutes of the PC meetings of 2 Mar 23, having been circulated in advance, were approved and signed. No outstanding actions.
8. Exemption from External Audit. In accordance with Sect 9 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015, the PC declared that the PC was exempt external audit, since both gross annual income and expenditure are below £25,000.
9. Approval of 2022/23 Annual Governance Statement. Marion Adkins as RFO took the PC through the Annual Governance Statement, after which the PC decided that all points had been covered and that the Chairman should sign it (which he did).
10. Approval of 2022/23 Accounts. The RFO took the PC through the accounts. Robert Garforth Bles had conducted the Internal Audit. Cllrs had no questions on the details of the accounts and the PC approved the accounts. The Accounting Statement was signed.
11. Finance. There was currently £23,000 (+) in the account, the Precept and a large VAT reclaim having been received. There was then a short debate on support for Movies@Malmesbury, after which Cllrs agreed to offer £100. The following payments were authorized:
 - cheque number 560, £192.71, to WALC for annual membership
 - 561, £100, Movies@Malmesbury (but first Clerk to find out what name to put on cheque, also to query what would happen to donations if insufficient money raised and Movies@Malmesbury closed down.

Action: Clerk
Chairman

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12. Portfolios.

- RFO – Marion Adkins
- Recreation Centre – Jenny Walker
- Rights of Way – Liz Garforth-Bles, also Philip Thompson as Assistant. To be confirmed at next PC meeting.
- Patients Group/PCT – Marion Adkins has a non-Cllr in mind for this and will ask.
- Area Board – Tom Blanden
- Parish magazine link – Marion Adkins
- Neighbourhood Watch – Marion Adkins
- Traffic and Highways – Clerk
- SID – Christian Olejnik
- Community Speedwatch – Anne Hodgkins will continue to lead the CSW team; she will report to the PC whenever she or the PC deemed it necessary.
- Book Exchange – Hannah Piet
- Noticeboards – Philip Baffour
- Climate Strategy – Philip Baffour

13. Trail Hunting. The PC debated a resident's request for '[PC] to take a position of not welcoming illegal fox hunting activities in Charlton'. There was an instant strong general reaction that it was a controversial subject that the PC had no role in and should not get involved in. If anyone witnessed what they thought was criminality in any shape or form they should report it to the police.

14. Footpaths – Next Actions. The intent was to follow up after the APM discussion, but in the unavoidable absence of the Footpaths Cllr Liz Garforth-Bles the item was deferred to the next meeting. The new Footpaths Map was now on the Village Hall outer wall.

15. SID. The Chairman had costed a suitable ladder for use when moving the SID and the PC approved a purchase at around £98/£99. The PC also approved the purchase of 3 hi-vis vests at £4 each. The Chairman's intent was that the SID Cllr would hold and look after the equipment. The Clerk mentioned the Wilts Council draft new policy: it currently states that SIDs should be in place for no longer than 2 to 8 weeks (decision to be evidence-based) with no return sooner than 4 weeks – a major change to the current policy. But it was still only a draft. Our SID had been in one place for getting on for 6 months now – at the next meeting we needed to see the data over this period to see whether there had been a diminishing effect. **Action: Chairman**

16. Coronation Update. The Chairman briefed on the joint plan made by the Rec Centre and himself. The Rec Centre had agreed to match the PC's 'up to £500' of support. It looked currently as if the full amount would not be needed. He was still struggling to find a photographer. Lord Suffolk offered a small contribution to the festivities.

17. BKV/Village Clean-up. The Chairman briefed on the arrangements including a BBQ at 1pm for all those taking part.

18. Highways. The Clerk reported that our Issue (about traffic problems at the B4040/Park Street/Tetbury Lane junction) had had its first airing at the LHFIG. It had been recorded in the Minutes of that meeting too narrowly and he had written to correct

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this, but overall it had been looked at positively, although it was still very early in the probable life of the Issue as it works through the stages of LHFIG.

19. Book Exchange. The Chairman reported that he was working on the reglazing of the kiosk which should be complete in the next few days.

20. Bus Shelter Repair. The Clerk reported that a quote was still promised by Dan Bailey but not yet received – promised now for next week. Meanwhile Ian Nurden had contacted the Chairman about his concern that rebuilding was the right answer and that the at least 175mm (6-7 inches) height reduction of the current plan was a problem. This prompted some discussion. The problem was that we had (and had paid for) a plan drafted by a reputable Structural Engineer and approved by the Insurance Assessor (**Afternote** – and approved in principle by the PC on 6 Oct 22), to set against a criticism by a builder. It was likely that rebuilding would be more expensive than repair (**Afternote** – back in Oct 22 the Structural Engineer had estimated that rebuilding would cost up to about double the cost of repair and would exceed our insured amount). It was agreed that the Chairman would invite Ian Nurden to estimate what he would charge for rebuilding (while making it clear that repair remained our current intended course); we could then compare this with Dan Bailey's quote, if/when received. **Action: Chairman**

21. Bulbs. Wessex Water had given us £50 to replace the bulbs destroyed when they repaired the sewer in the village centre. This had come as two £25 vouchers at Malmesbury Garden Centre. On balance Jenny Walker would prefer to use her usual catalogue supplier, which could be achieved if any Cllr would agree to buy one or both vouchers for their face value. No-one leapt at the opportunity (but there is time since the bulbs will not be bought until the autumn).

22. Planning. Report on Planning Applications:

- **Considered by the PC since the last meeting:**
 - Nil.
- **Decided by Wilts Council since the last meeting:**
 - Nil.
- **Not yet decided:** Five Lanes Solar Farm, Land off Pond Lane (BESS), Land at Somerford Farm (BESS), Land at Stonehill (BESS), Purlieus House (removal of agricultural occupancy restriction), Land at Braydon barn conversion; Minety Sub-station extension.
- **Current Planning Applications:**
 - Homefields – single-storey rear extension to replace existing conservatory, new porch to replace existing, new external door, new rooflight. Currently 6x No Objection.
 - Land to West of Bullocks Horn Lane – conversion of storage building to residence – by 31 May.

23. Councillors' Observations/Points for the Next Meeting. The Clerk mentioned 3 subjects:

- WALC County Conference Fri 9 Jun, 9am-4.30pm, West Lavington – Chairman will attend, prepared to car-share if any other Cllr also wants to attend.
- Interesting CSW report by Anne Hodgkins recently circulated, including mention of lower recorded speeds.
- At Vicarage Lane/B4040 junction, 1 Perry Green, new garden fence replacing the old hedge now dug up – a complaint received about reduced visibility to the right/west when approaching junction on Vicarage Lane – Clerk had asked Highways to check the visibility splay.

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- Question was then asked about the need for planning permission for a new fence in the Conservation Area. Clerk will check. Elizabeth Threlfall offered to raise with Planning Enforcement at Wilts Council – gratefully accepted. **Action: Clerk**
- Philip Baffour asked if he might repaint the noticeboards at no cost to the PC. PC agreed.
- The Chairman mentioned the idea of painting the bus shelter with some form of mural, possibly on a Coronation theme. For the next meeting.

23. Dates of Next Meetings. 6 Jul, 7 Sep, 2 Nov.

Wilts Cllr Elizabeth Threlfall reported:

- Roads were suffering from the weather and changing Highways contractors always caused a slight hiatus; Malmesbury High Street was soon to be re-surfaced and she was pushing for the A429 to be treated also.
- There was a backlog on planning applications.
- Waiting to see what would come of the Govt's review of planning laws.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Chairman